

19, 1940

Nellie Y. McLaughlin
Marlinton, W. Va.

Pocahontas

-1-

Chapter 4- Section 4- Part a

Dunmore.

There is no locality in the county richer in local history than Dunmore. There is a well founded tradition that the name Dunmore was bestowed by the Englishman William Warwick, who had the land as a grant from the crown through Lord Dunmore as Governor of Virginia. Lord Dunmore became so unpopular that he was forced to flee the colony at the start of the war for independence. On this account the name fell into disuse and the place was known as Mathewsville for a couple of generations. Sampson Mathews, the son-in-law of Jacob Warwick and then his son owned it. Some sixty or seventy years ago a part of the plantation was bought by the late Isaac Moore and a storekeeper named Dunkum. Dunkum, who was postmaster proposed that they use his name for the place in the place of Mathewsville. It didn't sound as good as some names to Mr. Moore, so he, knowing the original historical name proposed a compromise by the combination of Dunkum and Moore into Dunmore.

Sitlington Creek is named for Robert Sitlington, a native of the north of Ireland who married Elizabeth Dunlap Warwick, widow of William Warwick and mother of Jacob Warwick. He moved to Bath County about the year 1770.

Michaels Mountain was named for Michael somebody who was either a real sportsman ready to give his name a chance or a short sport intent on saving ammunition. He was a bear hunter and his custom was, when a pack of dogs had stopped the bear, to wade in with his hunting knife and put an end to it. One day the dogs bayed a big bear and Michael went

in on it, but the bear mauled, hugged and bit him to death. This mountain to the south of Dunmore for more than a hundred years has been called Michael Mountain for the unfortunate hunter.

Mr. Price thinks that the man the bear killed was Michael Daugherty. If this is the man, he was an Irish gentleman and considerable of a sporting character. He was a native of Donnegal, belonged to the landed aristocracy, had been educated for a priest, fell out with his step-mother, received his part of the estate in cash, came to America, and took up a big estate on Knapps Creek. He had some colored servants and to this day there are colored people by that name in this county. However, his main dependents were white bond-servants, whom he could buy at regular sales held at Staunton, Lynchburg and Richmond. These people would mortgage their liberty for a stipulated number of years in order to purchase passage from the old country to the land of freedom. They would then be auctioned off to the highest bidder for their services for the time specified in the contract. The country is filled with the descendents of these hardy men and women who sold themselves into bondage that they and their children might enjoy a freedom denied them in their native land. Among these and their descendents were and are the very salt of the earth. There were other white bond servants sold too, such as law breakers and possibly debtors. The number of stalwart men who bought their passage to this part of the new world on time were numerous enough to be the rule rather than the exception. The old Poage patriarch

thought that the fact that he was able to pay for the passage of all his numerous family was sufficient distinction to have it made a matter of public record.

In 1751 Colonel Lewis made the first survey of Greenbrier Valley at Marlinton. This survey is a few days older than the survey at Renick. Not long after William Warwick of Williamsburg, an army officer, took up the fine lands on the creek now called Sitlington. It couldn't have been long after because in 1765 Warwick's widow had married Robert Sitlington. Mr. Price has a copy of a letter from Robert Sitlington to his brother John in Ireland. This letter was written in 1765, and the place is Greenbrier. Mr. Price thinks it more than likely that this Greenbrier was Marlinton, as here was the location of Fort Greenbrier. At times a large garrison was maintained here. Robert Sitlington was undoubtedly writing from Dunmore, because he moved from there to his plantation on the Cowpasture when the Warwick lands were turned over to his step-son Jacob Warwick upon his becoming of age. Jacob Warwick ~~Warwick~~ was living in Dunmore in 1774, when he went to fight the Indians at Point Pleasant, the first battle of the Revolutionary War. All of his children were born at Dunmore, and he started to move to Kentucky from there. He was halted on Big Sewell Mountain by an Indian raid and massacre and he returned. He then bought the Clover Lick plantation from the Lewises, and established his homestead there. Much of the Clover Lick plantation is still in the possession of his descendants.

The age of the Dunmore survey can be had from the fact that Robert Sitlington was living there in 1765; that the date of the Marlin Bottom survey was 1751; that the Wilson survey, embracing the land in the twenty miles in

between calls for the lines of both the Warwick and the Lewis surveys.

Dunmore was the site of one of the five forts in this region known as Fort Warwick. One was at Greenbank, one at Dunmore, one at Clover Lick, one on Jacksons River and one on Tygarts Valley. The Fort at Dunmore was situated about where the garage is now.

These old forts or stockades took a lot of ground. Sometimes they were several acres in extent. There was much work connected with building one. Trees were cut into logs about twenty feet long. These logs were split in two and set in the ground six feet or more deep. The middle ground was big enough to hold the horses, cattle and other livestock of the community, which would be driven in on warning that the Indians had come. Feed would be stored in the fort and the stockade built around a spring or across a stream of running water.

No tradition that I can find has come down to the present generation about the fort at Dunmore ever being attacked by the Indians. The settlers, however took refuge there often upon true and false alarms about raiding parties being on the warpath.

The first wagon in Pocahontas County was brought to Dunmore by Major Jacob Warwick. He brought it by way of Warm Springs, Jacksons River, up Little Back Creek, across the Alleghenies to Knapps Creek, where the Harper place now is, up Knapps Creek and down Sitlington Creek, following the general route of the Nancy Hanks Trail. This wagon was burned up by the Indians on one of their raids to Clover Lick.

It is a pretty well established fact that Daniel Boone was a visitor at times at Dunmore. Major Warwick once decided to move to Kentucky. Perhaps Boone helped persuade him. There is a story that Colonel Boone and Major Warwick had a fist fight at Clover Lick. It may have been because of the turning back at Sewell Mountain and it may have been over lands in Tygarts Valley in which both were interested. There is a tradition that Mrs. Warwick was the cause of them turning back at Sewell Mountain and that Boone threw up "petticoat government" to Jacob Warwick and that the fist fight followed.

In pioneer days Dunmore was a busy place, with the fort, store, mills, blacksmith, gunsmith, powder maker and other necessary things required to develop and maintain a great estate in a new country.

The Moores were descendants of Moses Moore, noted pioneer and Indian fighter. There were three Moore pioneers in this county not related to each other.

The McLaughlins settled on Thomas Creek. Squire Hugh McLaughlin sat on the county court for eighteen years. He was influential in putting Pocahontas dry by refusing to license saloons and "ordinaries". This was over ninety years ago. It was one of the first counties to go on the dry list.

There were the McCutcheons. It was said of this family that they were always present and on time at public worship though the churches were at Greenbank and Huntersville, eight and twelve miles away.

Juanita S. Dilley

Clover Lick, w. Va.

POCAHONTAS COUNTY

August 1, 1940

HISTORY OF DUNMORE COMMUNITY ---BY ELLA PRITCHARD 1927

Sometime between 1740 and 1750 the King of England sent a young man to America to survey for him. He surveyed and bought for his own a large boundary of land east of the Greenbrier River, west of the Allegheney Mountains. This brave Englishman was Leiut. Warwick. His boundary included all of the land now owned by Harry M. Moore, Ernest W. Moore, the Pritchards, McLaughlins and many other land owners who have bought off of these larger farms.

Leiut. Warwick married Miss Elizabeth Dunlap, making his home at Dunmore. Leiut. Warwick returned to England leaving his wife and little son Jacob. He died on this trip. His widow later married Robert Sitlington of Bath County and they made their home at Dunmore until Jacob Warwick was 21 years old. His mother had secured a deed for him covering all of the land owned by his father Leiut. Warwick.

Sitlington's Creek was named for Robert Sitlington.

FORT

In the last years of the Seventeenth Century a fort was built near wher the postoffice now stands, for the protection of pioneer settlers against Indian raids. A covered walk was built from the fort to the creek so they could always get water in safety.

The Warwick property descended to Jacob warwick's grandsons Jacob and Andrew G. Mathews. Jacob Mathews owned the E. N. Moore

place. After the death of his wife, the land was sold to B. F. Jackson who sold the property to E. A. Smith and from him it came into the possession of E. M. Moore. Andrew G. Mathews lived on the land now owned by the Pritchards and E. M. Moore and named it Mathewville, and it is thought that he established a postoffice by that name.

Andrew Mathews sold to William L. Duncan and Isaac Moore. Both families occupied the house S. Cornelius Pritchard replaced by a new house, now the Pritchard homestead. Duncan and Moore combined their names and changed the name of the postoffice from Mathewville to Dunmore. Later Duncan and Moore divided their purchase, Isaac Moore established a home in which E. M. Moore now lives. Duncan sold his land to John W. Warwick in 1855, and in 1860 it was bought by John Andrew Warwick. He sold to a Mr. Jackson of Warm Springs, Va. In 1873 S. C. Pritchard of Fredrick county Virginia, exchanged a farm on Jacksons River for the Johnson farm at Dunmore.

Some of the descendants of Lieut. Warwick who have been reared at Dunmore are Mrs. S. B. Hannah, Mrs. H. E. Nixon, Mrs. Reece Pritchard, Mrs. Haven Deacon, Mrs. Joseph Lyons, Miss Maybelle Moore and Merritt Moore.

Dunmore is the birthplace and home of the first wife of Uriah Hevener Sr. She was the daughter of Andrew Mathews, and only lived a few years after their marriage, leaving two very young daughters, known today as Mrs. Ella Summerson and Mrs. S. B. Hannah, Sr.

MILLS

The only flour mill for a number of miles was located at Dunmore and was run by splendid water power, which never froze nor went dry, making it dependable. The older mill was run by what was called an overshot wheel. (believed to have been built by

the Mathews) Later another mill was erected by Col. S. C. Pritchard who used the turbine wheel for power, which was a great improvement. Our present mill, an up-to date roller mill as built by Winfred McElwee. (1912)

On the old water power location ther was also an up and down saw mill, also a carding machine which did splendid work, and a planing machine which made it a very business center.

The first store building was built of logs. It still stands on the bank of the creek and is owned by Fred Pritchard. First merchants who kept this store were Duncan & Co., Newton & George Wilson later kept store in the same building. After this Richard Jennings was in the ~~the~~merchandise business in a new and up to date building on the banks of the race. This building was destroyed by fire a few years ago.

W. H. Cackley and B. F. McElwee built the house where J. E. Pritchard now resides and used this store room until business forced them to build greater. In this new building C. E. Pritchard now does business.

W. H. Cackly built and lived where Fred Pritchard now lives. Richard Jennings built the residence which is now the Dunmore hotel kept and owned by Bland Nottingham. Mrs. Mary Hull built her home and postoffice. W. A. Noel built and opened the store where Gray Woods now is in the business. Winfred McElwee built the bungalows where Cam McLaughlin and Dock Sheets now live. All of the above mentioned homes, also from Jake Lightners on the Huntersville road and to Letcher McLaughlins on the Sitlington road were sold off the Isaac Moore property. Beyond the Presbyterian Church all was as the Indians had left it, in the woods.

William and Esq. Hugh McLaughlin bought about 1600 acres from Andrew Mathews, originally the Leicut. Warwick survey. This land takes in all of the McLaughlin homes including the Brooks, Corbett, and Deputy's farms. William McLaughlin and his brother Esq. Hugh came to Rockahontas in 1829.

John Carpenter another old pioneer settled on Thomas Creek. He divided his land among his four sons, William, John Jr., Hugh and Peter. This land is now the homes of Harry Taylor, James Watson and John Will Carpenter.

Near the mouth of Bitlington Creek the land was owned by Ruben Lindsay and Jonathan Potts. The site where the town of Raywood now stands, was originally owned by a colored family by the name of Diggs. They sold to Andrew Matliff, who sold to George Ray. Same was purchased by the Warren Lumber Co. and used for a lumber yard and manufacturing town.

Thorny Creek was first settled by Martin Dilley, from Maryland of Quaker descent, in 1820. He located where his son Andrew lived; he being the father of Hanson and Amos Dilley, who resided on the old homestead. Rev. James Wanless one of the original settlers of Thorny Creek settled sometime during the 20's, at his death leaving his estate to his nephew John F. Wanless.

Robert Dunlap McCutchan, January 11th, 1825, married Elizabeth Lockridge and settled on Thomas Creek. While they were not the first pioneers of this creek, they came soon after the organization of the county, virtually settled in the woods and built their home which was noted far and near for its cheer and lavish hospitality. Mr. McCutchan purchased 2900 acres of land which was likely a part of the Warwick survey.

William Nottingham of the Glade Hill neighborhood, married Mary Arbogast, daughter of Adam Arbogast, and settled in the woods. This is now one of our best farms, and is owned by Dr. Ligon Price since the death of his parents Mr. and Mrs. J. Calvin Price.

George Craig, father of the late Rev. Newton Craig, was the earliest settler at Glade Hill. A sad tragedy has impressed this fact. The colored nurse became angry when reproved by Mrs. Craig and as an expression of her wrath she threw the baby girl in a large kettle of boiling water. That the mother might forget this horrible scene, they sold the nurse to Col. Paul McNeel of Hillsboro, who then owned the Andrew Mathews farm. Isaac Moore bought the Glade Hill farm from Paul McNeel, and E. W. Moore inherited it from his father. This farm has been sold again and divided into three which are owned by Charles Nottingham, James Wilfong and Charles Wilfong.

Benjamin Arbogast, one of the pioneers of the Buzzard Neighborhood built a brick house where Cornelius Buzzard now lives. It was in this home they had all of their preaching services. The young folks, their shoes in hand, walked to Greenbank to church on Sunday. On their return they attended Sunday School and prayer meeting which was conducted in John Suttons barn. When they did all of their shopping at Hot Springs Va. with only a narrow path just wide enough for a pack horse, we do not wonder that they made no more than four trips each year, and that they treasured their shoes.

Ruben Buzzard, next neighbor, lived on the farm where ^{Emery} ~~Emery~~ Shinaberry now lives. Their first church was built of logs just after the Civil War. It has since been replaced by a frame building.

COPIED FROM THE CHURCH RECORDS

"Baxter Presbyterian Church built during the year 1858,

dedicated to the services of Almighty God, on the 27th day of August 1848. Dedication services by rev. Charles C. M. See. Text 127 Psalm part of the first verse. By order of the Greenbrier Presbytery, this church was organized by Jihn C. Barr on the 21st day of August 1859, with 16 members from Liberty Church at Greenbank as follows: Robert D. McCutchan, and Robert Curry, ruling Elders; Elizabeth Y. McCutchan, Nancy McLaughlin, Samuel McCutchan,,Christine Jane McCutchan, Elizabeth S. Curry, Caroline R. Nottingham, Nancy C. McCutchan, Matilda J. Craig, Caroline E. Warwick, John B. McCutchan, Robert L. McCutchan, William A. McCutchan and Elizabeth E. McCutchan. Pastors who have served this church:

Rev. J. C. Barr, Revs. R. P. Kennedy, M. C. Dunlap, A. H. Hamilton, J. H. McCown, Wm T. Price, D. D., E. F. Alexander, R. M. Caldwell, H. W. McLaughlin, R. T. Fultz, Bain, J. S. Kennison, D. M. Mohroe.

The seminary students who have endeared themselves by their faithful service; Revs. J. V. McCall, A.D. Watkins, Lewis Lancaster now a missionary to China, and Marion Sydenstricker now a missionary in Brazil.

This church has one outpost at McLaughlin School House which has added many members to the church, two deacons, and established many christian homes.

The soldiers during the Civil War camped in this nice new church which had been so comfortably furnished and left it a wreck for many years. New paint, paper, carpet and lamps added very much to the restoring it for the 50th anniversary. The past summer(1926) new walls were put in and it was painted inside and out. A new fence has recently been installed, all of which gives the 66 years of

service little to mar the building, and much to encourage the spiritual life. All this with three new Elders and three new Deacons should add much strength to the cause of Christ.

METHODIST CHURCH

Under the leadership of Rev. W. H. Ballengee the Methodist Episcopal Church, South was built in 1890 and 1891. It was dedicated in August 1891 by Dr. J. W. Young. Trustees were William M. Cackley, Jacob Taylor, C. R. Moore and E. N. Moore. The Lewisburg District Conference met at the church at that time.

The building of the church and organizing of the society was largely due to the efforts of Rev. Ballengee and his estimable wife. Fourteen pastors have served this church. The present pastor is Rev. L. S. Shires.

The Methodist congregation at Dunmore have done much to express their loyalty; their church building is in first class condition having very recently undergone many repairs, including a good furnace.

The present trustees are, H. M. Moore, E. N. Moore, S. Ed Taylor Winfred McElwee, Guy Campbell. Stewards: H. M. Moore, O. J. Campbell R. W. McQuain, and H. M. Taylor.

The ministers who have gone out from this church are Rev. J. A. Taylor and Rev. K. D. Swecker.

SCHOOLS

The first schools at Dunmore were taught at the Chesley Moore house.

The first school in the McLaughlin neighborhood was taught by Jacob C. McLaughlin near the present location. He was later called to war and killed at the battle of Cedar Creek in 1864. The school house was destroyed and one term of school was taught in an old house on

what is known as the Carr place where Ellett Carpenter now lives. A school building of rough material was erected on the banks between the homes of Lawrence and Russel McLaughlin and school was in session at this point for about twenty years. Some of the teachers who taught here were John R. Warwick, Uriah Bird, S. L. Brown, Preston Cosby, H. M. Lockridge, Albert Nottingham, Charles Cook, and the last school that was taught in this building was by our good neighbor Mrs. Alice Brooks, who also taught the first school in the building that is now in use.

In the Dunmore community we have the following schools; Hillside, Buzzard, Thorny Creek, McLaughlin, Curry and Dunmore. The Dunmore school was started in a one room building in 1880. Miss Emma Warwick was the first teacher. Our town now has a two room building which is located a short distance from where the old building stood.

The whole community has access to a first class high school at Greenbank, which is being well attended.

MINERAL SPRINGS----- TIMBER

Dunmore is noted for its fine mineral springs. The Lithia spring is gaining favor for its purity and the analyses shows this spring to be very similar to the famous Eureka Springs in Arkansas.

The Blue Sulphur, Magnesia and Chlybeat are yet quietly sliding along to the Greenbrier River unappreciated.

The farmers were first attracted to this beautiful valley. We wonder if it was not the beauty of the scenery which compares with that of Switzerland, so says an artist who has recently toured that wonderful country.

The valuable white pine invited many lumbermen. The first railroad brought to Pocahontas county was located on Thomas Creek.

one set ahead horses bear the honor of the transportation of this
railroad from Staunton, Virginia. (This was for the transportation of
logs to the mill and did not connect with outside railroads.)

A large portion of the timber was floated out of Sitlington Creek
into the Greenbrier River and on to Hancock. Today the white
pine is exhausted and the hardwood is being manufactured here and
shipped in lumber via the Greenbrier Division of the C. & O. railway.

The narrow pathways are fast being replaced by good roads and
State Highways.

Sometime between 1740 and 1750 the King of England sent a young man to America to survey for him. He surveyed and bought for his own a large boundary of land east of the Greenbrier River, west of the Allegheny Mountain. This brave Englishman was Lieut. Warwick. His boundary included all the land owned now by H.M. Moore, the Pritchards, McLaughlins and many other land owners who have bought off of these large farms.

Lieut. Warwick married Miss Elizabeth Dunlap, making his home at Dunmore, three miles east of the C&O Station, Sitlington, on the Greenbrier Division. Five miles west of the Virginia line, just north of the center of the county. Lieut. Warwick returned to England leaving his wife and little son Jacob. Lieut. Warwick died on this trip. His widow married Robert Setlington of Bath County, Virginia, making their home at Dunmore until Jacob Warwick, jr. was twenty-one years old. His mother had secured a deed for him covering all the land owned by his father, Lieut. Warwick.

Setlington's Creek was named for Robert Setlington.

In late years of the Seventeenth Century a fort was built near where the Dunmore postoffice now stands, for the protection of pioneer settlers against Indianraids. A covered walk was built from the fort to the creek so they could always get water in safety.

The Warwick property decended to Jacob Warwick's grandsons, Jacob and Andrew Mathews. Jacob Mathews owned the E. N. Moore place. After the death of his wife the land was sold to B. F. Jackson, who sold the property to E. A. Smith and from him it came into the possession of E. N. Moore. Andrew Mathews lived on the land now owned by the Pritchards

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On the old water power location there was also an up and down sawmill, also a carding machine which did splendid work, and a planing machine which made it a very business center.

The first stone building was built of logs. It still stands on the bank of the creek, and is owned by Fred Pritchard. First merchants who kept this store were Duncan & Co., Newton & George Wilson later kept store in the same building. After this Richard Jennings was in the mercantile business in a new and more up to date building on bank of Mill Race. This building was destroyed by fire few years ago.

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Copied from the church records:

"Baxter Presbyterian Church built during the summer of 1858, dedicated to the service of Almighty God, on the 27th day of August 1858, dedication to the service by Rev. Charles C. M. See. Text 127 Psalm, part of the first verse. By order of the Greenbrier Presbyterian this church was organized by John C. Barr, 21st day of August, 1859, with sixteen members from Liberty Church as follows: Robert D. McCutchan, Robery Curry, Ruling Elders; Elizabeth McCutchan; Nancy McLaughlin; Samuel McCutchan, Christine Jane McCutchan; Elizabeth Curry; Caroline Nottingham; Nancy McCutchan, Matilda Craig; Caroline Warwick; John B. McCutchan; Robert R. McCutchen; William McCutchan; Elizabeth E. McCutchan."

Pastors who have served the church: Rev. J. C. Barr; Rev. R. P. Kennedy; Rev. M. C. Dunlap; Rev. A H. Hamilton; Rev. J. h. McCown; Rev. Wm. Price; Rev. E. F. Alexander; Rev. R. M. Caldwell; Rev. H. W. McLaughlin; Rev. R. T. Fultz; Re. Bain; Rev. J. S. Kennison, Rev. D. M. Monroe.

The seminary students who have endeared themselves by their faithful service to many of God's people and helped many to become children of His Kingdon, are ,Rev. J. V. McCall; Rev. A. D. Watkins; Rev. Lewis Lancaster; now a missionary in China; Rev. Marion Sydenstricker, now a missionary in Brazil.

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The first school at Dunmore was taught at the Chesley Moore House. The first school on the McLaughlin neighborhood was taught by Jacob C. McLaughlin, near present location. He was later called to war and killed at the battle of Cedar creek in 1864. The schoolhouse was destroyed, and one term of school was taught in an old house on what is known as the Carr place, where Ellitt Carpenter now lives. A school building of rough material was erected on the bank between the homes of Lawrence and Russell McLaughlin and school was in session at this point for about twenty years.

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From the Pocahontas Times ***Feb.3,1927